

Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

Gaze, August 1981

Item Type	Text
Authors	Russell, Regina;Bush, Mike;Johnson, Bill;St. John, Clifton;Rochman, Emily;Sullivan, Ric;Kearn, Marcia;Coleman, Emily;May, Audrey;Taft, Jennifer
Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Memphis Gay Media;Memphis, Tenn. : Memphis Gay Coalition
Download date	2026-06-07 23:20:25
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/29651

Gaze

News of the Lesbian And Gay Community

FREE

FREE

Vol. 2, No. 8

Memphis, Tennessee

August, 1981

First March & Rally Draws "Surprising" Support

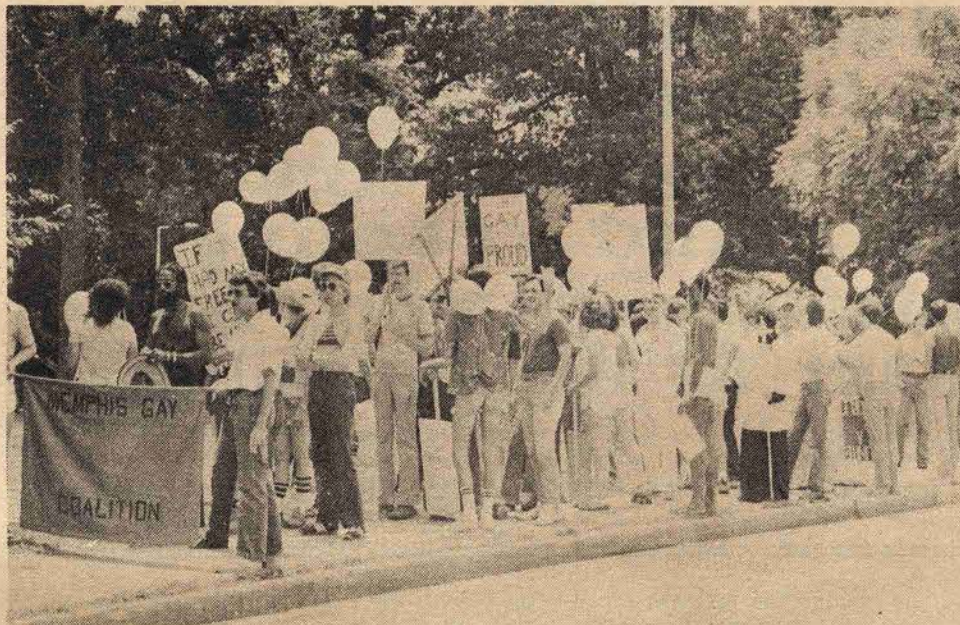
By Regina Russell

MEMPHIS-The first openly Lesbian and Gay march in the city's history drew over 100 participants who marched from Peabody Park to Overton Park Shell June 28 where the crowd grew to 150 for the first annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Rally.

The atmosphere in Peabody Park was described as "festive" by marchers gearing up for the one-mile trek to Overton Park. Marchers sported balloons, a few roller skates, and of course, signs and banners. Signs included "Heterosexism can be cured," "Somebody you love is Gay," "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all," and numerous others. Marchers sang and chanted as they proceeded, "Two, four, six, how do you know your kid is straight?" "Gay is just as good as straight." "Onlooker reaction was surprisingly positive. "Only one or two people reacted negatively," said marcher Charlie McMullen. A man driving by on Cooper Street gave thumbs down sign and a jeep full of kids jeered as we entered Overton Park." Numerous onlookers cheered the marchers with applause and "right on." Some joined the march along the way.

A lone protester, an unidentified man with Arkansas plates on his pickup truck, followed the marchers and photographed them. The man placed a sign reading "Homosexuals are Godless Perverts" along the march route. The sign was ripped up by a marcher. The man appeared at the rally with an identical sign and held it for a short time at the back of the Shell. The man put down his sign and left the shell when keynote speaker Lea Hopkins was introduced.

"Just look at that," Hopkins said, "just the mention of the name 'Lea Hopkins' sent the man out of the park." Debbie Boots received thunderous applause as she picked up the man's sign and tore it up.



100 marchers assembled in Peabody Park for city's first march in support of Lesbian and Gay rights. (More photos and stories on Gay Pride Week on pages 6 & 7.)

Lea Hopkins, who led the march, told the crowd that she was proud of the Gay and Lesbian community in Memphis, "my second home." She noted that her home, Kansas City, had drawn 150 people for its fourth Gay Pride March and noted that the crowd in Memphis was "surprising" for its first one. "But," she added, "where are the 79,900 who are not here?"

Commenting on the lone protester and the Moral Majority, Hopkins said, "What do your signs say... 'love,' 'proud,' 'good'...our signs always speak of loving and giving and being proud. But what do theirs say... 'Godless,' 'perverts,' 'hate,' 'bad,' 'kill'...and they say they are preaching love?"

Other speakers at the rally were Julie Steiner of the ACLU of Tennessee, Bill Johnson, editor of *Gaze*, and Audrey May of the National Organization for Women.

Steiner said, "I think this march is very important. We are presently in a time of such incredible intolerance in this country that it is frightening...It is time for us to stand up and speak up and be heard! No one is going to fight the tough fight for Gay rights unless Gay people all over this country start speaking out against these kinds of anti-American bills and attitudes."

Johnson told the crowd, "It is far easier for bigots to lash out at those who differ from themselves than to fight the hatred and bigotry in themselves...It is because of the bigots that we are here today. And because these people really object to our 'coming out' or 'flaunting,' they really should go after Reverend Chuck (Charles Britt)...He has brought more Gays out of the closet in Memphis, Tennessee than any other Memphian."

May evoked crowd participation by saying, "Repeat after me: I am a Tennessean and I'm proud. I am a Memphian and I'm proud...I am a Lesbian and I'm proud...For those men in the audience who might feel uncomfortable saying 'I am a Lesbian,' just remember that the word 'woman' always includes 'man.'"

Members of the Gay Pride Week '81 Committee said that Channel 13 (WHBQ-TV) provided "excellent and fair coverage" of the march and rally. The event was ignored, however, by the other 4 TV stations and the major newspapers. *The Commercial Appeal*, which ran a story on Gay Pride Week events in numerous other cities, ignored the events in Memphis. Several radio stations did report the events and some read advance public service announcements of the week's activities. The GPW '81 had sent advance press release to the major media in Memphis.

Ric Sullivan of the GPW '81 Committee, said that the turnout for the march and rally was "excellent, considering it was the first time ever and considering the fears that most Gays have in Memphis." Some members of the committee speculated that next year's march would draw far larger crowds. Sullivan said, "Now that they (Gays not attending this year's march) have seen that we actually did it right here in Memphis and that we did it successfully, I think a lot more Gays will be willing to march next time."

Tom Marshall, who coordinated the GPW '81 march security force, said that the police escorts provided by the MPG were extremely helpful and courteous. The leader of the police escorts told Marshall that the march was "very orderly." He added that he looked forward to seeing the marchers next year.

The Overton Park rally was ended by a "symbolic balloon release" as the audience let go of their helium-filled balloons which read "Gay Pride Week '81 Memphis" on one side and "Love Somebody No Matter Who" on the other.

Black Group Protests Memphis Bar's I.D. Policy

By Mike Bush and Regina Russell

MEMPHIS-A group of about 40 people picketed the Barracks on July 3, charging the bar with racial discrimination by its policy of asking three or four I.D.'s from Black customers and frequently declaring the I.D.'s invalid.

The picket was organized by the Memphis Committee, a predominately Black Gay rights organization. Although only 12 members of the Memphis Committee participated in the pickets, they were joined by about 30 supporters, both Black and white. Others refused to cross the picket line.

Protestors wore t-shirts painted with slogans such as "No Blacks Allowed" and "Blacks 3, Whites 0." Prior to the demonstration, the Memphis Committee had sent "test" cases to the Barracks door to see whether or not they would be asked for "unreasonable" I.D.'s. Several whites were permitted to enter without the show of I.D., including some who had never been to the bar before and were not known by the doorkeeper. Blacks, however, were asked for 3 and 4 I.D.'s. Y.J. Calhoun, spokesperson for the

Committee, said the Barracks had discriminated against Blacks since its recent opening. "Black people are always asked for at least one I.D., and usually they're asked for three, while whites just breeze on in."

Danny Ray, manager and part owner of the Barracks, denied that the club discriminates against Blacks. "We only ask for an I.D. if we don't know somebody," he said.

"Several whites however, who had never been to the Barracks and could not have been known by the management, presented themselves at the bar before the protest and were not asked to show an I.D.," Calhoun said.

One protester, James Jones, said, "Two young white guys were ahead of me in line. When they got to the window (where a sign is posted, 'three I.D.'s required') one of them said, 'I haven't got an I.D. All I've got are credit cards. But he has an I.D.," he said, pointing to his friend. Danny Ray waved them both in. When I got to the window, they said, 'Do you have a driver's license?' I've been to the Barracks before. It's always the same."

Don Rossignoll, part owner of George's and the Barracks, complained that "This march was instigated by people who have nothing to do with my bar." Pointing to the white protesters, he said, "This is not my clientele."

Sherri Meyers, attorney for Memphis Area Legal Services, said, "We can go to

federal court tomorrow to request an injunction to stop the Barracks from discriminating against Blacks." She noted that, while it is legal for the management to request as many I.D.'s as they like, they must ask everyone for the same number of I.D.'s.

Continued on page 11

QUOTATION MARKS...

"Homosexual is who you go to bed with. Gay is a whole lifestyle."
--Jim Donovan, Chattanooga activist

"If they pick up what Procter & Gamble has cast off--and there are plenty of sponsors waiting in line--the company will have accomplished nothing except to keep its skirts clean with a claque deep in the dirty business of blacklisting ideas."
--from a recent editorial in the Memphis Commercial Appeal

"To submit to the pressure of immoral societal prejudice is immoral. Self-respecting people do not submit. Self-respect is what I am trying to inculcate into my people..."
--Frank Kameny

"The person who is too old to learn was probably always too old to learn."
--unknown

"He who accepts evil without protesting it is really cooperating with it."
--Rosa Parks



Gazing

The Printed Word

Editorials appearing in *Gaze* represent only the opinions of the author unless otherwise indicated.

By Bill Johnson

Gaze is the only Gay and Lesbian oriented newspaper in Memphis, or for that matter, in the state of Tennessee. It may not be the best newspaper we could have, but neither is it the worst. We have encouraged and do encourage constructive criticisms, which help us to produce a better paper.

From time to time it is necessary to respond to some criticisms, either because they are impossible for us to otherwise acknowledge (with present conditions and resources) or because they result from personal disagreement with what we actually print.

About news stories: we have heard complaints that our stories are too negative. Our staff attempts to select the news items which best reflect the current state of events in both the national and local Gay and Lesbian movement. We have no control over whether these stories are positive or negative, and our interest is, as it should be, to provide the news which most affects us as Lesbian and Gay people. We are by nature a special interest paper.

In addition, we feel that even in these times of increased homophobic reaction from Radical Right groups that the news is fairly balanced. In our July issue, which was the target of this particular criticism, we ran stories on MSU's Gay Student Union looking to a bright future, a Gay group planning a local weekly tv show on cablevision, a Lesbian mother appealing child custody denial in Nashville, the passing of national Lesbian and Gay rights legislation in Norway, a National Gay Task Force campaign to improve straight media coverage of Gay issues and numerous stories in our "National" and "Local" sections which were both positive and negative. But the basic point is that we should know what is going on whether it is to our liking or not.

It should go without saying, also, that advertisements appearing in *Gaze* advocating specific political or non-political viewpoints should not be construed as representing the viewpoints of the paper. I

doubt that any of us would think they did if we saw them in any non-Gay publication. For obvious reasons, we rarely turn away an advertiser. After all, there aren't that many to turn away.

"It shall be the policy of the Gay Press Association and its member publications to pursue the truth aggressively and in a fair and responsible manner, granting favoritism to no special interests."

--from Standards and Ethics for News and News Features Adopted by the Gay Press Association, May 3, 1981.

As for editorials, we make it clear at the top of page 2 (our "editorial page") in each issue that such editorials represent the viewpoints of their authors. It is impossible, however, to separate the tone of our editorials from the nature of the publication. We are published by the Memphis Gay Coalition and abide by its statement of purpose which is as follows: "The Memphis Gay Coalition is an organization of women and men working together to educate the general community and the Gay and Lesbian community about human rights issues, to foster awareness and communication, assert rights, and to confront and work to overcome oppression and discrimination."

We fully recognize--and have recognized since our inception--that many in our community would enjoy more coverage of local social events. We encourage this. We would like nothing more than to include an entertainment section in *Gaze*. Several factors prevent this at present, however, not the least of which is the lack of information concerning such events. It is difficult to print a story on something that we don't even know about. It is equally difficult to print a story on something in which all individuals involved are reluctant to provide information. We are a small staff--very small--and none of us are paid. We each spend much of our "spare time" working diligently to publish this paper. It is not as easy as it appears.

Following the appearance of our July issue, a Memphis barowner implied that our staff pockets money we receive from advertising. Whether the accusations are made in heated moments of anger, stress, or

from the pockets of our own staff members. This in itself reflects poorly--very poorly--on our community.

Now to the subject which we believe is the real source of these recent complaints. Our letters-to-the-editor column, "Box 3038," is an open and public forum for anyone in our community who wishes to express her or his viewpoints. Rarely have we not printed a letter that we received. In fact, the only time we do not print letters received is when the letter is intended for the editor personally (or other staff members). We will not and, in fact, cannot allow "Box 3038" to be censored by the owners of Gay businesses in our community. These businessowners, too, are free to express their viewpoints in our pages. I strongly suspect that the tables would indeed be turned upside down were we to refuse to print a letter from the owner of a local Gay bar. To date, we have not received a letter from a Memphis barowner.

The obvious point of contention here is our printing of letters-to-the-editor suggesting that Gay bars practice discriminatory policies against Black people. We will continue to print these and all letters that we receive. Through "Box 3038" alone, we represent the entire community.

As a publication, we do not and have never--as I have pointed out repeatedly in this space--attempted to represent the entire Lesbian and Gay community. We have repeatedly stated that we represent that minority which says "we are not free if freedom means 'staying in our place.'" This is true locally, nationally, and worldwide.

As Lucia Valeska of NGTF recently said, "There is not one member of the Gay community who hasn't benefited positively from the changes over the last 30 years. Yet we still hear, 'I don't like the Gay community here very much,' to which we must respond, 'But my dear you are the Gay community!'"

As a newspaper we will fight oppression and attempts to stifle freedom of expression within our own community as readily as we will fight it from heterosexual heterosexists. We are fighting for our freedom to come out and represent ourselves. We will not submit to the whims of those who attempt to deny the propagation of this philosophy, be they Gay or non-Gay. Playing pansy is not suitable to our natures.

We are a publication which affirms that being Gay is *not* an inferior state of being which inherently subjects us to the "necessity" of hiding in the shadows of shame, despite a climate of political and social corruption that creates an atmosphere of Gays oppressing Gays. We will be available to those who want to read what is written on our pages. And we will not censor our pages to appease the desires of those who benefit by keeping us in the shadows.

On June 17, 1981, the United States House of Representatives passed the McDonald Amendment...

U.S. Representative Harold Ford, whose district includes most of the city of Memphis, recently said that it is imperative that a constituency make itself known to its representatives.

According to a recent Department of Justice memorandum, the amendment, which denies Legal Services funds to "provide legal assistance to promote, defend, or protect homosexuality," could deny access to legal services by Lesbians and Gay men even when the legal issue does not involve homosexuality.

We cannot afford the luxury of remaining a silent constituency. Please write today and 1) oppose the Family Protection Act, which contains anti-Gay, anti-women and anti-Black provisions, 2) support H.R. 1454, amending the Civil Rights Act to include the words "sexual orientation," and 3) support H.R. 3524, eliminating "sexual deviation" as grounds for exclusion of Gay aliens from the United States.

U.S. Representatives can be reached by writing to Rep. (name), House of

Representatives Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Senators may be reached by writing Sen. (name), Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

For more information and to obtain pre-printed post cards for mailing, write the Memphis Gay Coalition Political Concerns Committee, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have post cards mailed to you.



Counterpoint

By Clifton St. John

Klan Undercover

The Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the largest faction of the KKK is in deep financial trouble. Expenses from legal actions, both criminal and civil, have caused the Klan to become more invisible than usual.

"In the past, we have marched and passed out literature in open defiance of local officials," said Bill Wilkinson, Imperial Wizard of the KKK. "In a number of cases...we have had arrests, and as a result it has cost us thousands of dollars in legal fees."

In an attempt to stop the outflow of funds, Wilkinson ordered Klansmen to cease openly displaying firearms at any public Klan function, but to "make no announcement of this policy to the media."

The biggest and costliest legal problem for the Invisible Empire is a \$43 million civil suit filed in Birmingham by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of the Peoples' Association of Decatur, Alabama. That suit has already drained the Klan's funds.

"If we do not get a dismissal on the suit," Wilkinson wrote in a Klan newsletter, "it may take \$5,000 or \$10,000 a month for attorneys during the trial."

Hooray for the cumbersome court system. Maybe such costly legal actions will force the Invisible Empire so far under cover it will totally disappear.

Your Taxes Could Be Deadly

Most of the money you earn each morning before lunch is gobbled up by federal, state, county and city taxes.

The Tax Foundation, Inc. says the U.S. worker labors 2 hours and 49 minutes each 8-hour day just to pay the tax bill—the largest item in most budgets.

Federal taxes claim 1 hour and 56 minutes of your workday—even more if you are single as most Lesbians and Gay men are.

If you are Lesbian or Gay, you are a tax-paying citizen whose tax dollars are being used against you. Even now, some of your taxes are turned toward stifling your way of life, harassing you, persecuting you, and denying you your constitutional rights. And if the "Christian Right" has its way, some portion of your tax dollars will serve to deport you, to intern you in concentration camps or to totally eradicate you and "your kind."

Plan a big Labor Day weekend and have fun. But remind yourself during that holiday just what you are working for. Your taxes could kill you.

Science Vs. Split

Sacramento Superior Judge Irving Perluss has ordered California public school science teachers to present the theory of evolution not as dogma, but as one possible explanation for the origin of life.

The ruling resulted from a lawsuit against the state filed by Kelly Segraves, a conservative Baptist. Segraves claimed that San Diego public school teachers had violated his children's civil rights by telling them that they descended from apes.

The teachers denied making such statements—as well they should. Even an elementary school science teacher should know that the theory of evolution does not contend that humans descended from apes. Instead, it speculates that humans and apes both evolved, not descended, probably from a common ancestor. That is not dogma; that is theory.

So, the victory from Mr. Segraves is an empty one. But that emptiness will probably never be noticed by the Creationists who cling to the notion that Adam was the world's first and only spit baby!

McCarthy Revisited

In the May issue of *Gaze*, "Counterpoint" commented on the story of a Presidential order which would permit the CIA to infiltrate domestic groups for the purpose of altering their activities. The news story reported that Deputy Director of the CIA, Bobby R. Inman, predicted that Mr. Reagan would "go along" with these unconstitutional activities.

Inman's prediction is coming true. President Reagan is going along and sending his henchmen to pave the way.

The first group targeted is the American Civil Liberties Union. Presidential counselor,

Edwin Meese, speaking to the California Peace Officers Association, said that the ACLU was part of "what might be described as a criminal's lobby." He indicated that the ACLU was opposing effective law-enforcement legislation.

This from the President's lawyer! Meese either cannot or will not grasp the fact that the ACLU seeks to protect the constitutional rights of all U.S. residents; so do the courts of this country. Meese seems to have little regard for the constitution or the courts.

In concert with Meese, William A. Wilson, Reagan's personal envoy to the Vatican is also on the attack. Accusing the ACLU of jeopardizing CIA and FBI activities, Wilson said: "The result has been a rather effective handcuffing of those who the taxpayers pay to protect individuals and society from those who would unlawfully attack, rob, destroy and kill."

"One must conclude," continued Wilson, "that those individuals who sponsor such activities must have some sort of assured protection from the law breakers, else they would not be interested in putting themselves in jeopardy."

In effect, Wilson has labeled the ACLU as criminal. That is not surprising. Any individual or group whose philosophies or politics do not coincide with "Christian Right" convictions or "Ultra-conservative" politics is considered immoral, therefore criminal and open to attack by the Right Wing.

ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser, in rebuttal, stated that Meese and Wilson have smeared loyal Americans with sweeping accusations which are "unspecific, unsubstantial and untrue."

"What Meese and Wilson have done," said Glasser, "is a classic form of McCarthyism...Where McCarthy saw sinister Communist conspiracies behind opinions he didn't like, Meese and Wilson now see criminal conspiracy behind views they disagree with."

"When this sort of statement comes in anonymous hate mail, one dismisses it as ignorance," Glasser said. "But when it comes from highly placed public officials, who have for years been part of the President's inner circle, it is dangerous—and frightening."



Box 3038

Letters should be as short as possible and must be signed. Names will be withheld by request but anonymous letters will not be published. Mail to Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

Goodbye To Friends

I used to believe that the two hardest phrases to say were "I love you" and "goodbye". However, over the years I've learned that I was only half right. To say "I love you" is easy; to say "goodbye" is hard.

By the time most people read this I will be halfway around the world. As I travel to the land of my parents I wonder what Gay life will be like there. Despite how Gay life might be, I know there will be Gay people. So I know I'll find warmth and love there.

I want to ask my friends to write me and not to forget me. I will return and my heart will still be filled with love for you. My address will be: Martin Katz, c/o Poste Restante, Jaffa Rd., Jerusalem, Israel.

Marty Katz
Memphis

Gaze Destroys...

This is a long overdue letter to thank you for both the wonderful ad for the Justice For Parents Defense Fund, and for the excellent article on my Cleveland custody case. As I told you in Memphis at the march, in my experience it has been rare that a media representative accurately reported a story. The work of your paper destroys that myth in my mind.

Abby Rubinfeld
Nashville

We Left Something Out

Your editorial (Gazing) in the July issue giving reasons why we should all march in the Gay Pride march was very good. You left out a reason, however, that you might want to include next year; many — if not most — of the cars driving down Cooper Street during

the march were curious Gay people. There may not be anything wrong with this in itself, but I recognized a few of those people. They are the ones who are afraid of getting out there because they might lose everything they have in life and, at the same time, say that Gays really don't have any problems with discrimination.

These people have played ostrich so long their brains have filled with sand.

E. N. Johnson
Memphis

Kicking Off

Bill, I want this letter published and printed in bold type on the first page. I know you won't do that, so just stick it in with the rest of the letters-to-editor.

We would like to encourage everybody to come to the Campaign '82 Kickoff Picnic at

981 Meda Street (in Bill and Ric's backyard) on Sunday afternoon, September 13. Mark it on your calendar!

This is *not* your typical, everyday Gay picnic, friends. There will be entertainment (singing and guitar playing and who knows what else); there will be speakers whose speeches will change your probably presently negative feelings about listening to speeches; and there will be free beer! I said FREE beer!

The picnic begins around 2 in the afternoon and won't end until everybody leaves. It will be "potluck", which means please bring some sort of food — sandwiches, potato chips, soft drinks, a covered dish or something edible. (No dears, you don't have to bring all those things — just one of them.) (Bill, I know you wouldn't be there if it weren't in your backyard.)

MGC Political People
Memphis

Gaze

Member National Gay Press Association

Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103. Phone (901) 274-0431 (irregular hours).

Gaze is non-profit and assumes no liability for claims made by advertisers. Appearance in this publication does not indicate sexual orientation. We reserve the right to edit or reject all materials submitted for publication. Subscriptions are \$8 per year to cover mailing costs.

Published by the Memphis Gay Coalition.

Editor:
Bill Johnson

Staff Writers

David Alexander	Regina Russell
Mike Bush	Bill Stevenson
Emily Coleman	Clifton St. John
Marcia Kearn	Ric Sullivan
Audrey J. May	Jenifer Taft

Production and Graphics:
Artwave, Ken C. Hagenback, Art Director

Business Manager:
Sharon Stewart

Distribution:
Donna Jones, Cecil McLeod,
Jim Ramsey, Ric Sullivan

Local Advertising:
Staff (Call 274-0431)

Nashville Correspondent:
Abby Rubinfeld

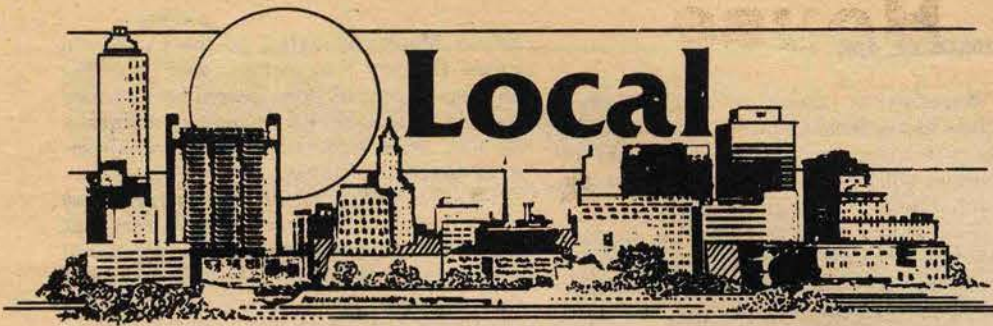
National Advertising:
Joe DiSabato
Rivendell Marketing
666 Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10010 (212) 242-6863

Copyright 1981 by Memphis Gay Media,
Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.
Distributed in Memphis, Little Rock and Nashville.
Microfilmed by Southern Gay Archives,
Boca Raton, FL

dignity | memphis

Is an organization of Gay and concerned Catholics who wish to see Christ's Love expressed to and among all men and women regardless of sexual orientation. We are a support group which accepts members of all denominations, Gay or non-Gay in a spirit of fellowship. We wish to promote an atmosphere where friendship can develop and mature, and where the Gay person's sense of acceptance and individual worth may be strengthened.

Call 725-1698 or 726-5927 for information.
Mass Sundays, 5 p.m., St. Peter Village Chapel, 1805 Poplar at McLean



Advocacy Project Plans Wallet Cards

The Gay Advocacy Project, a joint effort of the ACLU of TN and the Memphis Gay Coalition, has finalized plans for production and distribution of a wallet-size card telling what to do and what not to do when arrested, a pamphlet listing local and state laws most often used against Gays, and a booklet exploring what happens during an arrest, how to obtain release from jail, how to report police abuse or harassment, plea bargaining for reduced charges, and community resources available to Gays.

The educational materials will be distributed starting August 1, and will be available at most bars, special events, ACLU and MGC meetings, and through the mail (please send SASE to Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103).

Also in the works is the development of a volunteer peer support system for those arrested or harassed, and lists of attorneys who will represent Gay clients effectively. Education of the legal community concerning the needs of Gay clients is a prime concern of the Gay Advocacy Project.

Julie Steiner of the ACLU of TN indicated that interest has developed throughout the state in this project, the first of its kind in Tennessee.

Donations are needed to cover printing costs. Funds have been obtained from the Memphis Committee and from donations received at the "Gays & the Law" Forum held last March, but more money is needed.

Contact the ACLU-TN, 81 Madison, Suite 1505, Memphis, Tn 38103, 521-9875; or the MGC, Box 3038, Memphis, Tn 38103, 274-0431.

Campaign '82 Kickoff Picnic Set For September 13

A "Campaign '82 Kickoff Picnic" will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 981 Meda St. (between Young and Walker). The potluck picnic, sponsored by the Political Concerns Committee of the Memphis Gay Coalition, will feature several speakers, entertainment, and free beer. The picnic will begin at 2 p.m. and last until people leave.

300 Enjoy Great Gay Riverboat Cruise (And Two Don't)

The Great Gay Riverboat Cruise, held aboard the Memphis Showboat on June 27, drew over 300 people to a 4-hour ride on the Mississippi complete with dancing and door prizes.

After about 1 1/2 hours, a man and woman who had been noticed sitting alone on the second deck, inquired of a crew member when the boat would be docking. The couple was surprised when told that the cruise was a private party and lasted about 4 hours.

After demanding that they be let off, the Showboat's captain radioed for a grocery

boat from nearby Waterways Marine. The couple was transferred to the grocery boat and taken to shore.

Persons working the ticket gate said that they had told the couple that "this is the Gay cruise." When confronted with this, the woman said, "I thought you said *gate* cruise."

The woman said, "This is making me sick," referring to same-sex couples dancing together. The man, however, according to security chief Tom Marshall, "seemed to be having a good time."

The couples were apparently tourists who had thought they were boarding the tour boat.

Going Down in Cooper-Young

The talk of the Cooper-Young neighborhood these days seems to be the degeneration of this turn-of-the-century Midtown village. The minister of Temple Baptist Church, located in the heart of this

rapidly-Gaying neighborhood, recently announced that the neighborhood was "going down" because of all the Gays moving in.

Gay residents said, however, that the neighborhood is going *up*. Gay couples and singles are quickly buying houses in Cooper-Young and renovating them.

Tsarus To Host Club Night July 25

Tsarus, a local organization of Gay men, will sponsor a "club night" Saturday, July 25, at Sharon's on Madison Avenue at McNeil. The event is open to the public from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

The evening will feature several fun-filled events including shuffleboard contests and a "guess-how-many-whatevers are in a jar" contest. Drawings for door prizes will be held every half hour and patrons may purchase as many extra tickets for door prizes as they want.

Survey Shows Chattanooga Gays Not Willing To Take Risks

By Emily Rochman

CHATTANOOGA—Local activist Jim Donovan has completed a study of other Gays in this city of 170,000 determining problems of Gays within the general community. The study shows that Gay liberation is as important to Gays as community and culture, but that few Chattanooga Gays have participated in a political movements to aid their cause.

Although 75 percent of the participants in the study said they would support a Gay liberation movement, only 50 percent would consider the movement a positive experience for Chattanooga and 76 percent said that it would have a negative effect on the straight community. Donovan patterned his survey after *The Gay Report*, by Karla Jay and Allen Young.

Jay and Young studied 0.018 percent of the country's Gay population of about 22.4 million, or 10 percent of the entire population. Using a population count of 170,000 people for Chattanooga (1980 census), Donovan estimated the Gay population at 20,000 and surveyed 0.09 percent of the Gay community.

Some 56 percent of the participants noted that they had never been verbally abused in Chattanooga, but Donovan said, "This apparent freedom to be openly Gay in the straight world is highly prized by the Chattanooga Gay, and serves to impede any activity to create an alternative Gay culture."

Adding that the apparent freedom is misleading, Donovan said, "I wanted to do this study because I feel, as a person, I'm entitled to certain life experiences equivalent to those offered to heterosexuals. Gays do not feel they can be themselves in Chattanooga."

Donovan said that the idea for the survey resulted from dissatisfaction with limits on

Chattanooga's Gay community. "It would warm my heart if by some divine intervention," he said, "Chattanooga could have some token activity during Gay Pride Week. Atlanta and Memphis have been planning street fairs and parties for several months. I'd like to have something here so the world could know we're here and not ashamed of being Gay."

"I've seen too many people leave here to have normal lives, and these people are leaving or not coming to Chattanooga because there is nothing here for them. Either Gays in Chattanooga will have to resign themselves to a very unfulfilled lifestyle or, over a period of time, there will continue to be a mass exodus."

"I've been criticized heavily for taking a political stand—rocking the boat. Some people claim it's too soon to push for a Gay movement in Chattanooga, but I hope it's not too late."

The survey indicates that Gay life here is limited to bars and private social functions. Although several Gays would support a liberation movement, only 6 percent presently consider themselves liberationists and most feel that the focus of a Gay organization should be social.

Donovan commented that most Gays in Chattanooga are aware that there could be much more to their lifestyle, "but are afraid to gamble what little freedom they now have in an attempt to cultivate an atmosphere which, if they want, is readily available in other, easily accessible locations, such as Atlanta."

The primary problem in creating a recognized Gay community, he said, is probably not public opinion, but Gays' fears of public opinion. "Gays are afraid, terribly, terribly afraid of what the public thinks."

Donovan added that *The Chattanooga Times* recently interviewed him and printed a "very fair" article about the results of his survey.

Campaign '82

KICKOFF PICNIC!

2 p.m.
Sunday,
September 13

Games

Potluck Picnic, FREE BEER,
Live ENTERTAINMENT,
Dynamic SPEAKERS, Fun

981 Meda St.,
Between Young & Walker

EVERYONE INVITED!

J-WAG'S

725-4670 1268 Madison

Relax on our Patio! Food-Beer-Games-TV

Open Every Night Until 6 a.m.

3 BIG SPECIALS--DON'T MISS

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesdays Draught BEER Special 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. 2 for the price of 1 Pabst-Coors-Miller Lite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursdays PIZZA & BEER SPECIAL 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Order any 12" pizza at regular price & get 60 oz. pitcher beer FREE!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sundays BEER BUST! \$3 for ALL YOU CAN DRINK! 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Pabst-Coors-Miller Lite</p>
--	--	--



National

Curran Loses Battle - But Not War

LOS ANGELES -- Timothy Curran, 19, lost his bid in early July to become a Boy Scout troop leader. Superior Court Judge Robert Weil ruled that the Boy Scouts, a private volunteer organization, is not required to open its membership to everyone.

Curran responded to his loss by saying, "I'm not the sort of person who gives up after a skirmish...I am disappointed that we lost a battle, but there is a lot of fighting to be done." Curran was expelled from the Boy Scouts after taking a male date to his high school prom last year. The Boy Scouts has no written policy on homosexuals but says that its "standards for morality and leadership" exclude Gays.

Second West Coast Women's Music Festival Set For September 10-13

YOSEMITE, CA - The Second Annual West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival, set for Sept. 10-13, will feature a slate of performers and workshop leaders rarely gathered in one place. Robin Tyler will emcee the event. Among those appearing are Meg Christian, Alive!, Robin Flower, Teresa Trull, Kate Millet, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Holly Near and many others.

For information write West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival, 1195 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, or call (415) 641-4892.

Is Falwell The President's Advisor?

WASHINGTON -- Moral Majority entrepreneur Jerry Falwell recently said that President Reagan called him and discussed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor for Supreme Court Justice before he nominated her. The call, Falwell said, lasted nearly an hour. Despite the fact that Radical Right groups have opposed O'Connor's nomination, Reagan has been criticized for attempting to "appease" Falwell by saying that O'Connor isn't really what she appears to be on the issues on abortion, ERA and other "controversial" subjects.

Executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, James Dunn, told Baptist Press that Reagan is wrong if he thinks "Jerry Falwell has to be consulted or pacified" before decisions are made. "The President's call to Falwell doesn't make any sense," Dunn said.

"At a time when by his own admission Falwell's broadcasting empire is teetering and his fundraising appeals are sounding more and more desperate, a lengthy call from the President of the United States concerning his appointment to the Supreme Court only lends undeserved dignity to the country's

Gays Protest Axing Of Jamestown Exhibit

NORFOLK, VA--Members of the Unitarian-Universalist Gay Community (UUGC) distributed leaflets at Jamestown (part of Colonial National Historical Park) on July 11 and 12 to protest the recent removal of an exhibit panel mentioning Gay people in 17th century Virginia.

Park Superintendent Richard Maeder removed the panel after receiving complaints from park visitors about its content. The exhibit, entitled "Jamestown's Other People," described the role of women and minorities in colonial Virginia.

Jayr Ellis, UUGC spokesperson, said that his group contributed ideas for the exhibit at the Jamestown Conference on Women and Minorities, held at Jamestown in September of 1979. "The National Park Service sponsored the conference along with organizations representing women, Blacks, native Americans, senior citizens and handicapped people. The Park Service said that it wanted to interpret the story of women and minorities more effectively at Jamestown, and it asked each minority

most notorious exponent of an unconstitutional entanglement of church and state."

Gay Pride "Unacceptable" In San Diego

SAN DIEGO (Update) - Mayor Pete Wilson, who has issued proclamations of One Nation Under God Month, Salvation Army Day, Singles Clubs Days, Jumping Frog Day, God Bless America Week and numerous other lesser concerns, has refused to comply with over 1,000 San Diegans' wishes to have "Gay Pride Week and Lesbian Solidarity" proclaimed in this city.

The mayor's office stated that the proclamation would have been "a blessing on their lifestyle," and that government does not have the "right or responsibility to sanction it."

Despite Wilson's fear of homosexuality, Gay Pride Week was a tremendous success in this California City.

A Different Story In Chicago

CHICAGO (Gaylife) -- For the first time ever, June 28 was officially Gay and Lesbian Pride Day here. Mayor Jane Byrne declared the day "Gay Pride Parade Day in Chicago."

Chicago's 12th annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade (the first 11 were "unofficial") drew between 10,000 and 15,000 participants, the largest ever in the Windy City. Police Sgt. Thomas Barnes described the parade as "very peaceful, very orderly."

Biggest Ever In Boston

BOSTON (Gay Community News) -- About 12,000 Lesbians, Gay men and supporters marched under rain-threatening skies through downtown Boston on June 20 to celebrate this city's 12th annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. It was the largest march ever by Lesbians and Gay men in Boston. The parade ended with a mass gathering on Boston Common.

A police spokesperson said, "As far as we're concerned, it was very peaceful."

2,000 or 11,000 In D.C.?

WASHINGTON (The Washington Blade) -- In D.C. the Park Police seem to have a problem with numbers when it comes to Gays. The Park Police, who placed the number of marchers at the 1979 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights at 25,000 while other sources said 200-250,000, estimated this year's crowd at the Gay Pride Day Rally at 2,000 while the Washington Post set the crowd at 11,000 - 15,000.

At any rate there were thousands who enjoyed a parade, carnival-like festivities and good fellowship.

present to suggest ways of doing that in the exhibit. We felt the exhibit should indicate that Gay people helped colonize Virginia, and that Jamestown was named after James I, the homosexual king of England at the time. The Park Service accepted our ideas and incorporated them into the exhibit."

When Maeder learned about the complaints from visitors after he became Superintendent of the park in April, he promptly removed the reference to Gay people from the minorities display.

UUGC members passed out 4000 leaflets on July 11 and 12 and received many positive comments from people who opposed the censorship of the exhibit. "We also got some negative comments," said Jayr Ellis. "Some people were very angry with the leaflet."

During the 7-month period that Maeder has been in his position, only 5 letters of complaint about the exhibit were received. Over 126,000 people visited the park during the period. The UUGC has not yet been permitted to see the letters of complaint.

House Passes McDonald Amendment

WASHINGTON--The U.S. House of Representatives passed the anti-Gay McDonald Amendment to the Legal Services Corporation Act by a vote of 281-124 on June 17.

The McDonald Amendment read, in part, that no funds of the Legal Service Corporation may be used to "provide legal assistance to promote, defend, or protect homosexuality." The amendment could possibly cut off access to legal services by Lesbians and Gay men even when the legal issue does not involve homosexuality, concluded a recent Department of Justice memorandum. The Department of Justice stated that the amendment is ambiguous, and that if adopted it would be "subjected to the Constitutionally-required due process scrutiny. The amendment must have a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose."

While the effect of the McDonald Amendment remains in doubt, the fact that the amendment passed this time indicates that other amendments against Lesbian and Gay civil rights could also pass. Although the amendment must pass in the Senate before it will become law, Gay Rights National Lobby Director Steve Endean has said that victory for Lesbian and Gay rights in the Senate "appears slight."

Endean noted that there were positive aspects of the vote, however. "Compared to last year's vote, this year there was a gain of more than 40 votes for equal justice for Lesbians and Gay men. This type of change is

incredibly uncommon in the current political climate."

Endean credited constituent mobilization as the greatest reason for the vote turnaround. "Information from Congressional offices indicates that many Members of Congress received a large number of telephone calls from their constituents urging them to vote against the McDonald Amendment."

Another positive aspect of the vote was obvious during the debate. In the past, few Members of the House were present during debate. One or two persons would speak on the issue and then a vote would be taken. Members of the House would stream into the House Chamber from their offices to vote. This year most of the entire House of Representatives sat through two hours of vigorous floor debate during which Rep. McDonald (D-GA) was put on the defensive.

As in the House as a whole, this year there was increased support among Republicans for justice for Lesbians and Gay men. Votes of Republicans for equal justice were up from 20 in 1980 to 36 in 1981.

Despite the positive aspects of increased support in the House and a good debate on Gay and Lesbian civil rights, some ominous signs remain, says the Gay Rights National Lobby. Legal Services seems destined to become the first federal program for which access by Gay and Lesbian citizens will be blocked, and chances of reversing this in the Senate do not appear good.

Gays Launch Offensive On Family Protection Act

WASHINGTON--Gay Rights National Lobby and the National Gay Task Force announced in June a national offensive to organize supporters of human rights against the anti-Gay agenda of the newly introduced Family Protection Act. The two organizations issued a call to all Americans who support the fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution to write Congressional representatives and express opposition to the blatantly discriminatory Family Protection Act, introduced into the Senate by Roger Jepsen, (R-Iowa).

Lucia Valeska, NGTF Co-Executive Director, stated, "This legislation is designed to bully the American people back into the dark ages. It is of immense concern to us because it singles out Gays as unworthy and undesirable. The organizations backing this ugly piece of legislation are financing a national program of repression by promoting ignorance and irrational fear of Gay people."

Steve Endean, Executive Director of GRNL, emphasized, "The Family Protection Act is blatantly unconstitutional. The mere introduction of it lends tremendous legitimacy to anti-Gay discrimination. We

fear and anticipate an increase in violence against us in cities and towns across the United States as a direct result of the bigotry promulgated by this legislation."

Endean and Valeska added, "It should be known that there are millions of Lesbians and Gay men in this country, estimated to be one out of every ten citizens. We are part of millions and millions of families. We are your brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. This bill could only serve to destroy our families."

NGTF and GRNL are coordinating a campaign of direct Congressional lobbying, public education and constituency letter-writing and petition efforts in order to build public pressure on elected officials to defeat this and other anti-Gay legislation.

Petitions may be obtained by writing GRNL, P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013. Petitions should be returned to the Lobby and will be forwarded to Congress from here.

Reprinted post cards ready for signing and mailing which oppose the Family Protection Act can be obtained from Memphis Gay Coalition Political Concerns, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

"Love Is In The Air"



Metropolitan Community Church

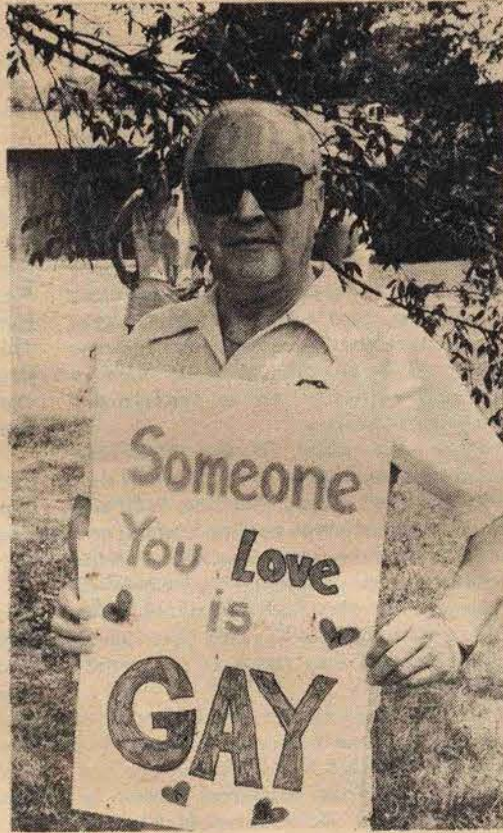
672 S. McLean 278-1091

Sunday 11 a.m.

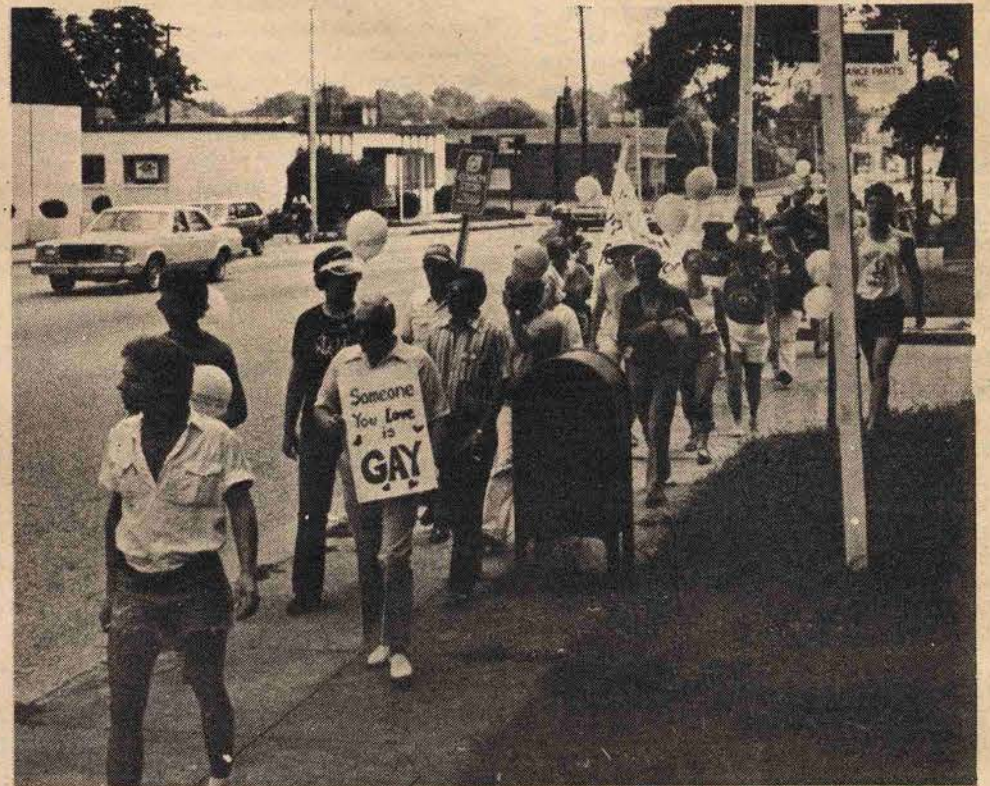
Deliver me from the oppression of man; so will I keep thy precepts. — Psalms 119:134

GAY PRIDE

"Gay Memphi



"Yesterday I was homosexual, today, I'm Gay."
— a man at the rally.



"I was leading the parade with Lea Hopkins. When I turned around as we entered Overton Park and looked down Poplar Avenue and couldn't see the end of the line of marchers around the corner on Cooper, it brought tears to my eyes." — Cecil McLeod.



"When I realized I was a Lesbian, I thought I was the only one in the whole world. We must continue to be bold and brazen. We owe it to the young Gays who think they're the only ones in the whole world." — Lea Hopkins

Controversial MSU Seminar Tackles Issues Of Gay Clients

By Ric Sullivan

MEMPHIS—"Don't make the mistake of being a non-informed non-Gay person." This was the message delivered to over 40 participants in the second annual "Counseling the Gay Client" seminar at Memphis State University on June 26 by Lea Hopkins, Lesbian activist and keynote speaker.

This year's event, "The Gay Client: Counseling Issues and Options," evoked significantly less anxiety from university officials, according to Jeanne Dreifus of the Human Services Cooperative. In his welcoming remarks, Dennis Heitzman, Director of the Center for Student Development, encouraged the professionals present to learn all they can about all their clients. "We cannot serve them by denying certain things in ourselves and in them," he admonished.

Ms. Dreifus informed *Gaze* that several complaints against the educational seminar went to university officials. The complainants indicated that they were members of Thrifhaven Baptist Church and had been urged by their minister (Charles

Britt) to protest the university's conducting a "course in how to become a homosexual."

Lea Hopkins opened her lunchtime address by openly declaring her Lesbianism, which several workshop leaders had also done, declaring "this puts me on secure ground and puts the listener on the offensive." She repeatedly stressed that counselors must educate themselves concerning Gays in order to obtain a realistic point of reference about their clients' problems.

Referring to a paper she had prepared on Lesbian substance abusers, Lea stated that homosexuality is usually directly related to drinking problems. "Bar people are generally the most visible element in the Gay community. They feel (going to bars) is the only way I can become a part of the Gay community." She emphasized the importance of a therapist knowing as soon as possible if he or she is dealing with a Gay client.

Lea devoted most of her talk to what she sees as the main source of Gays' problems—the Bible. "Because of the Bible, they drink... abuse drugs...lie to themselves...lie to their friends." She noted the irony of considering how important "the Bible is and how much hell it can raise."

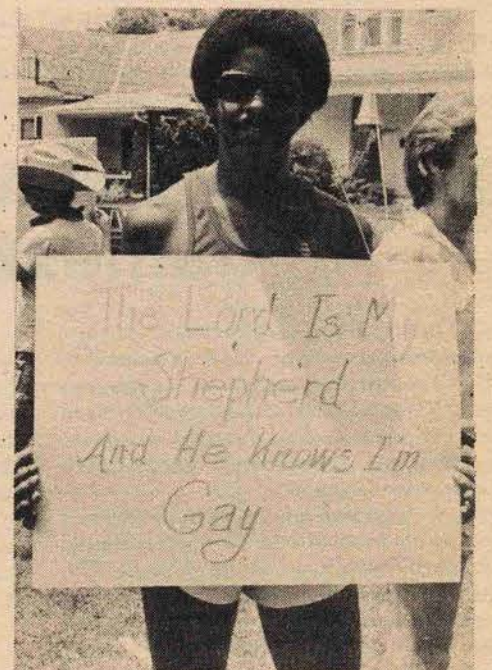
Her remarks concerning the use of the Bible as a weapon against Gays and other

minorities sparked reaction from several Maranatha Chapel counselors. They complained that the agenda was "biased" toward helping Gays remain in a Gay-oriented lifestyle and suggested that techniques for counseling Gays out of their "sin" be discussed to balance the presentations.

Lea encouraged one of the professed Christian counselors to contact Charles Britt whom she described as "leading his congregation down the primrose path toward destruction."

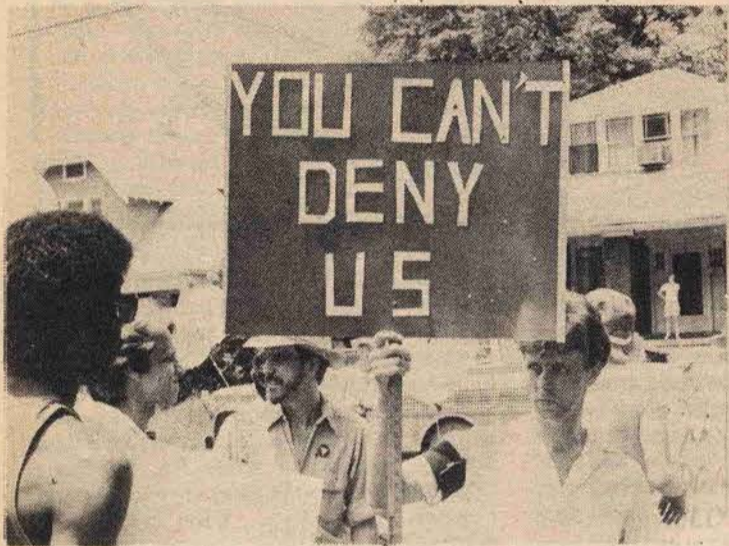
Tension between the Maranatha counselors and several openly Gay participants and presentors climaxed during the feedback session. Several Gays angrily denounced "Christians who bang their Bible over our heads." One participant, indicating he was heterosexual, suggested he would have "as hard a time getting into heaven as a homosexual would."

Workshops explored myths and facts concerning homosexuality, adolescent identity crises, counseling Gay couples, liaisons with peer support groups, and dealing with Gay issues within families. The seminar was sponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition and several MSU departments and agencies.

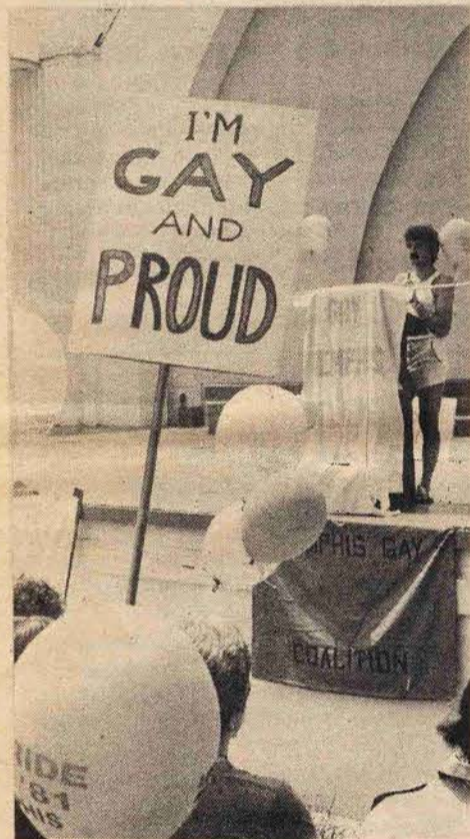


WEEK 1981

s-- Believe It!!"



"I'm proud of my Gay dog!" — a marcher's shout to an onlooker who said, "Look! Even the dog is Gay."



"Congratulations on an orderly march. See you next year." — one of the 5 police escorts for Memphis' first Gay and Lesbian Pride March.

Gay Pride Picnic Draws Over 200

By Marcia Kearns

MEMPHIS—The second annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Picnic drew over 200 hungry and thirsty people to Meda Street June 21, for an afternoon of fun, food, entertainment, and information.

An enthusiastic crowd listened to performances by local entertainers Kelly Johnson, Charley McMullen, Pam Pinkall and others as they ate. "This music is unbelievable," said one picnic-goer. "I didn't know we had these kind of entertainers in Memphis."

Several local groups had exhibit tables at the picnic and handed out literature to interested persons. The Memphis Gay Coalition registered voters and handed out balloons that said, "Love Somebody, No Matter Who."

"I can't get over all these festive balloons," said one man. "Can you believe this perfect weather?" said another.

The scene was described by many picnickers as "unbelievable." One woman commented, "I just can't believe this is happening in Memphis. I feel like I'm somewhere else. All these people strolling around the neighborhood with their t-shirts

and buttons and balloons and the straight people seem to be enjoying it with us rather than laughing at us."

The picnic went well into the evening hours with people coming and going throughout the day. A single keg of beer, which had served last year's crowd of about 75 people, ran dry early in the afternoon. The food went quickly, also, but was frequently replenished by new arrivals.

The Gay Pride Week '81 Committee, organizers of the picnic, were "surprised" at the turnout. The group had anticipated few more than the 75 who attended the 1980 picnic.

"Two, four, six, eight — how do you know your kid is straight?"



"We are a gentle, angry people and we are singing, singing for our lives."



Homophobic Band Loses Audience, Paid With "Gay/Lesbian" Money

By Bill Johnson

MEMPHIS—"Bluff City," a band which was scheduled to play for a dance following the Robin Tyler performance at Beale Street Cinema June 20, found its audience dwindling to nothing after the lead singer introduced the bandmembers and said, "We're happy to be here tonight playing for the Memphis Gay Coalition. We don't agree with it, but in the words of the immortal John Lennon, 'Whatever it takes to get you through the night.'"

The audience began leaving. By the end of the first song most people had left the auditorium and filled the theater lobby. Stageguards reported that members of "Bluff City" had made several anti-Gay remarks while setting up.

A quick conference of the organizers of the event, the Gay Pride Week '81 Committee, ACLU Director Julie Steiner, and an attorney, resulted in a decision to demand

that the band make an on-stage apology. Following the apology, the band was dismissed in mid-song because the apology was described by listeners as "as bad as the original statement." The apology had ended with the statement "I guess this wasn't the proper place to say it."

The \$450 fee was paid in cash to the band. Each small bill however, was boldly marked "Gay and Lesbian money."

Members of the GPW '81 Committee later expressed regret at having paid the band at all. Even though the group was bound by contract to pay the band, Robin Tyler pointed out that a legal case on the matter "would have taken years in court and cost the band more than they would likely be willing to spend."

Attempts were made prior to the event to obtain a band whose members were Lesbians or Gay men, but all bands were afraid of being "stigmatized" by playing for an openly Gay group.

Two teachers talk about their problems and concerns in the homophobic world of education

On Being A Gay Teacher In Mem

By Ric Sullivan

LYNN LEWIS

"I don't see education as drilling a hole in someone's head and pouring information in. To me, education makes you open-minded. It can't make you closed-minded."

Although not presently involved in a teaching career, Lynn Lewis taught for two years at the university and community college levels. She has definite feelings concerning the relationship between homosexuality and our educational system. A basic problem to her "is society's repression of expression of ourselves."

At both schools in which she taught, Lynn heard the typical derogatory things about Gays. Someone making such remarks is "just as bad as being a racist," generally attempting "to stereotype or scapegoat a fear or the inability to deal with it."

She was not out at work, stating "I didn't advertise it but I didn't hide it either." Lynn indicates that her sexual orientation was not an important issue. "Lesbianism is a sexual orientation and sex is not a part of work." But realizing that the on-job implications are different for every Gay educator, she questions "How do you bring (your sexuality) in? Just by being there?"

The conversation turns to the educator-pupil relationship, the influence a Gay teacher exerts on a student's ideas and feelings of sexuality. Lynn indicates that she does try to encourage younger people over whom she has influence to "take people for what they are. . . It's not for any behavior of theirs that you do or don't associate with them or talk about them or put them down. . . The crux of the thing is. . . self-actualization" of the individual.

"Society's desire to put boundaries on and limit us" interferes with the educational process, Lynn feels, because the system utilizes energy and resources "trying to

enforce a norm." And that situation is something she feels Gay teachers should fight. The question is how. "I don't see why homosexuality or bisexuality should be any different than heterosexuality in its influence on others. . . I think it's more important how skilled a teacher is, how happy a person is with him or herself."

"I feel that children need role models of all types. That's for the benefit of the child. . . If parents are reacting out of their own fears and own defenses then the educator can make a positive impact."

JULIE BOND

Julie Bond has taught in both public and Catholic schools, and she has taught students from first through ninth grades. She began her career about the same time that she recognized her Lesbianism. As she discusses her feelings concerning the educational experience, her openness becomes apparent.

"I try to teach children as human beings because they are human beings." She emphasizes qualities such as sharing, experiencing and touching as much as or more than the academic basics. "I'm extremely affectionate with the children and I have seen that happen more in the whole school. . . Hugging and kissing have just spread."

One third of the faculty knows she is Gay. "By them, it's very accepted." She continues, about another one third "I feel I could tell them tomorrow."

Many Gay teachers strictly limit their expression of affection with their students for fear of being "discovered" or suspected of sexual abuse. Julie, however, continues to treat her students honestly and openly. "I've never had a parent say anything to me about

affection. . . I've never had a parent suggest I was homosexual. . ."

She has never been confronted about her sexual orientation, nor about any supposed negative influences she may exert over her students. However, the subject did arise once. "I did have the oldest member of our faculty ask me what I thought about homosexuals as teachers. . . She asked me how I felt and then mentioned something about some principal who was picked up in a park (here) that nobody knows about."

"I told her. . . it's not what your sexual preference is or your religion or any of the things that makes a person the way a person is. You can't label. And if there was a homosexual that was in any way going to be violent to a child, I would not want that person teaching. If there was a heterosexual that was going to be violent to a child, I would not want that person teaching."

Julie continues, "I'm a big person on rights. Whenever I go through my list of

rights. . . I always make sure homosexuals are in there. . . Bigotry or prejudice is a disease and it doesn't matter if it's against whites or against Blacks or against homosexuals."

When asked about her "bringing homosexuality into the classroom," which is a standard accusation leveled at Gay teachers, Julie pauses. "I bring my feminism into the classroom a whole lot. . . I suppose (feminism and Lesbianism) are overlapping. I often get asked, 'Why aren't you married?' . . . I say that various people do various things with their lives. . . and I believe in loving various people."

"Most children can accept just about anything."

Julie thinks about the future. "Someday I would love to teach in a communal situation and to be totally open with my sexual preference, teach male and female children. . . I would probably like it all Gay but I don't know that I have to have it that way. . ."

69 Myths About Homosexuality

Myths Number Three And Four

By Clifton St. John

Ignorance and emotionalism perpetuate myth. And where sex is concerned, we are both ignorant and emotional. Most of us have been taught virtually nothing about sexuality and the variations of it. Any "knowledge" we might have of such matters comes from peer mythology and misinformation.

It is no wonder, then, that most of the stereotypical myths about homosexuality are categorically infantile; we have only child-like emotions as a guide in evaluating sexuality and the variations we encounter.

Myth #3: All Gay men think like women and all Lesbians think like men.

When one is accused of thinking like the opposite sex, the motive is far from scientific. It is political, for the intent is to impugn the accused's sexual identity—an attempt to assign that individual a more submissive social role.

Such accusations are "justified" by the historical "battle of the sexes." Masculinity is viewed as primary and dominant, therefore superior. Femininity is relegated to a secondary, submissive status and looked upon as inferior. When a man is assumed to think like a woman, he is assigned a secondary social and sexual status—or lower. He is thought to be suffering from an impaired masculinity, and he is fitted into the Gay male stereotype—even if he is not Gay.

The attitude is not quite as clear-cut concerning the woman who is believed to think like a man. Other women might view her with disdain, while many men will admire her for her masculine thinking.

Western societies harbor such an abhorrence for what is, or appears to be, impaired sexual identity that our sciences are somewhat homophobic. It isn't surprising that research into functions of the human brain are tainted with heterosexism. When researchers discovered that the brain's two hemispheres performed distinctly different

functions, one was dubbed "masculine" and the other, "feminine."

The consequences of this are not at all clear, because masculine and feminine traits are not limited to their respective genders. If all men who "think" like women and all women who "think" like men were homosexual, not enough heterosexuals would remain to carry on this or any other myth.

Myth #4: All homosexuals enjoy dressing in the clothing of the opposite sex.

This myth treads on dangerously hallowed ground, assailing religious tradition. Many of the world's religions have a long and colorful history of transvestism. In the monotheistic religions, the "one God" is never conventionally heterosexual. He may be hermaphroditic, or fat enough to appear pregnant, or he may dress in "womanly" robes. His "dual gender" is carried out by his high priests who tend to be all-powerful potentates in "feminine" garb. We've all heard the joke that the definition of a priest is "a man who dresses like mother, but insists on being called 'Father!'"

In folklore, as in religions, men who dress as women are held as benevolent creatures, while women who cross-dress or appear masculine are seen as witches. Could this be why women are not less welcome in the priesthood?

Society still insists all transvestites are homosexual. The finger is pointed at the "drag queens" and "diesel dykes" as typical of all Gays. In fact, only a very small percentage of Gay men and Lesbians feel compelled to transvestism. "A fact well known to sex researchers but mindboggling to the layman," says Dr. C.A. Tripp himself a sex researcher, "is that most transvestites are exclusively heterosexual." A recent study by Dr. Wardell Pomeroy shows that "homosexuality is even less prevalent among transvestites than it is in the general population." Cross-dressing is often more a sexual turn-on to the transvestite than an indication of gender identity.

Gaze Announces The 2nd Annual



MOONLIGHT MADNESS

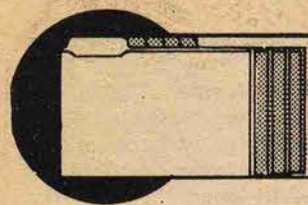
Costume Cruise On The Queen II

8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Sat., Sept. 26

Tickets \$10 at gate, \$8 in advance (groups of 2 or more). Call 274-0431 or mail to "Gaze Cruise," Box 3038, Memphis, 38103.

\$25 PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME
(Get Your Halloween Costumes Out Early!)

FANTASTIC DOOR PRIZES! HOT NEW MUSIC!



Research

Effects Of Rape On Lesbian And Heterosexual Women

By Emily Coleman

How does the traumatic experience of rape affect Lesbians? Do Lesbians cope with rape differently than heterosexual women? Is rape a determining factor of sexual orientation? These questions were the focus of a 1977 article by Ralph H. Gundlach in the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

Dr. Gundlach and Riess initially obtained questionnaire returns from 225 Lesbians and 233 heterosexual women from across the United States. One of the questions was "Were you ever the object of rape or attempted rape? If so, at what age(s)?" Many of the questionnaires returned by Lesbians were completed by members of the Daughters

of Bilitis. A comparison group of heterosexual women were matched to the group of Lesbians according to region of residence, age, education and number who had psychotherapy. In the original questionnaire, 67 Lesbians (30%) and 48 heterosexuals (21%) reported rape one or more times. When distributed according to age 11 and under, 26 became Lesbians as adults and 9 became heterosexuals, a ratio of 3 to 1. In order to explore this finding further, Dr. Gundlach contacted again the women who had reported rape on the original questionnaire. He received the following additional information from 48 Lesbians and 30 heterosexuals.

In terms of history of sexual behavior, the Lesbians and heterosexual women were of

course different but no boundaries occurred that sharply marked off the early experiences of Lesbians and heterosexual women. For example, 42% of the heterosexual women had had one or more same sex experiences. Among the Lesbians, 76% had had sexual intercourse with a man.

Dr. Gundlach presented the data from the second questionnaire in three categories: (1) Molestation or rape of children by a stranger; (2) rape or attempted rape of women 16 and over; (3) molestation or rape of children by a relative or close family friend. The most striking fact in this study was that of the 17 women molested in their childhood (ages 4 to 15) by a relative or close family friend, 16 became Lesbians. The men committing these rapes include 14 who could be called father figures; the others were teenage boys, (brother, half-brother, close friend) who had been respected and admired. Ten of these girls were too frightened by the threats of the molester to tell anyone, at least for a long time. Three acted in such a way, i.e., running away, that the situation was brought to light and four told their mother. These four mothers either condoned his actions, ignored the incident or disbelieved the daughter. Evidently, the mothers felt unable to threaten their relationship with the man.

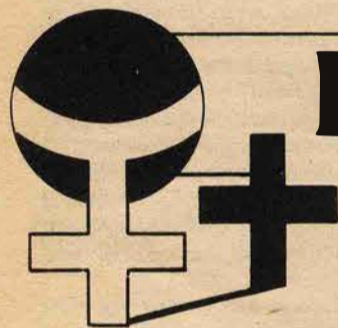
Eighteen other children age 15 and under (10 Lesbian and 8 heterosexuals) were raped by strangers. The attack seemed to be somewhat more drastic for those who became Lesbians (3 mass rapes, 2 court cases and 4 cases where the girls were under 8 years of age).

For women 16 years old and older who were raped, the proportion of Lesbians to heterosexual women was about the same. However, the reactions to the rape tended to differ as a function of sexual orientation. The heterosexual women tended to blame themselves for not being careful. Some of the heterosexual women tended to blame themselves for not being careful. Some of the heterosexual women, age 16 to 18, interpreted the rape as a compliment to their sexual attractiveness. The heterosexual women kept their sexual interest in men by accepting the rape or attempted rape as among the expected hazards of relationships with men.

The Lesbian women tended to respond differently. Five of the Lesbian women were raped by a man they had been dating and now scorn and reject men for their egoistic aggressive sexuality. Those who later or already were Lesbians found themselves disgusted by the sexuality and violence of these men, felt dirtied by the rape and strongly turned toward the gentleness of other women.

Caution must be taken in generalizing the results of Gundlach's study. It is certainly not true that all Lesbians have turned to other women as a result of a traumatic heterosexual experience. Conversely, many heterosexual women survive a rape or rapes with their heterosexuality still intact. My guess is that there are many factors which possibly contribute to sexual orientation and that it is unlikely we will ever be able to identify even one or more factors as responsible for sexual orientation. Certainly many researchers have been very contradictory. Studies involving hormonal imbalances and family constellations seem to be the most popular but no definite pattern or conclusion emerges from the research in this area.

However, this study does provide some evidence that the incidence of sexual molestation, sometimes repeated and violent, of young girls by a family member of close family friend is higher among Lesbians than among heterosexual women. The study also indicates that Lesbians have dealt with this violent experience by directing their anger to the offender and the sexual violence of men rather than laying blame upon themselves, a pitfall to which heterosexual women appear more prone.



Lesbian Health

Breasts: Part 1

By Audrey J. May

Breasts—small or large, firm or sagging, each woman's breasts are important. Our society has a tremendous fascination—one might easily say obsession—with breasts. Much has been written about breasts in everything from erotica to fashion commentary. Breasts can give pleasure or pain, feed an infant, please a lover, nurture our own sense of well-being. But many women do not know a great deal about their own breasts. One way to become better acquainted with your breasts is through the simple technique of breast self-examination.

A breast self-examination (BSE) is an important part of your regular health maintenance. You can easily do your own breast self-exam on a monthly basis to check for any unusual lumps, swelling or discharge. Too often women do not examine their breasts for fear they will "find something." But remember, detecting problems early gives you the advantage of early, effective treatment. Breast cancer, for example, can often easily be cured if detected in the early stages.

Examining your breasts regularly will also give you a sense of how your breasts look and feel when healthy so that you can more easily detect any changes. In addition, breast self-exam may encourage you to become more at ease with and accepting of your own body. Too often women are trapped into hating their breasts because they do not look like the currently fashionable or "perfect" breast. Each breast is different and unique. No two are alike, even on the same woman. Breast self-exam can help us overcome our fear of our breasts and more fully accept ourselves as we are. And incorporating breast exams into loveplay can also be a pleasant way to share health concerns with a partner.

Breast exams should begin as soon as a woman has breasts to examine—for the very young woman, as soon as there is a regular menstrual cycle. Breasts problems seldom occur at such an early age, but it is a good time to begin a habit of self-exam which will be carried into the later years when it becomes more important.

A thorough breast exam consists of the following:

1. Stand in front of a mirror, under good lighting, with your breasts bare. Immediately after a bath or shower is a good time since

your fingers will slide more easily over wet skin.

2. Look at your breasts (a) with your arms hanging loosely at your sides, (b) with your hands raised above your head and (c) with your palms pressed firmly together or with your hands on your hips—press to flex your chest muscles. Look for differences (in shape, not size) of your breasts—for example a flatness or swelling in one breast but not the other. Look also for a discharge from the nipples when lightly squeezed (unless you are breastfeeding). Other possible signs of a problem are a red or scaly crust on a nipple, hardness in a nipple or nipples pointing in different directions.



3. Examine each breast separately with your arms above your head (or, if you're lying down, with one arm under your head). Feel each breast gently and systematically with the flat of your fingers. Move the fingers across the breast in a spiral, beginning with the nipple. (See illustration.) Or mentally divide each breast into quarters and lightly press each section. Rock your fingers gently across the area. You may feel the supporting tissue under the breasts or some fibrous tissue; that will be normal. It may take a while to discover the normal, healthy feel of your own breasts, so take your time. Be sure to give attention to the connecting tissue between the breasts and under the armpit.



The breasts change throughout the menstrual cycle just like other parts of the body. Examine your breasts regularly at the same point in your cycle; the best time for breast self-exam is probably about a week after your menstrual period. The swelling that often accompanies menstruation should be gone by then and you will be better able to detect any lumps or abnormalities.

Remember, the purpose of the self-exam is to put you in touch with your own healthy body and help you become aware of any changes from that healthy state. Regular self-

exam should augment but is not a replacement for regular breast exams by your health care worker.

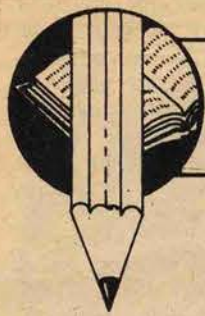
Watch next month's *Gaze* for more information on the care and maintenance of your breasts.

(Audrey J. May is Community Outreach Coordinator for the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health.)

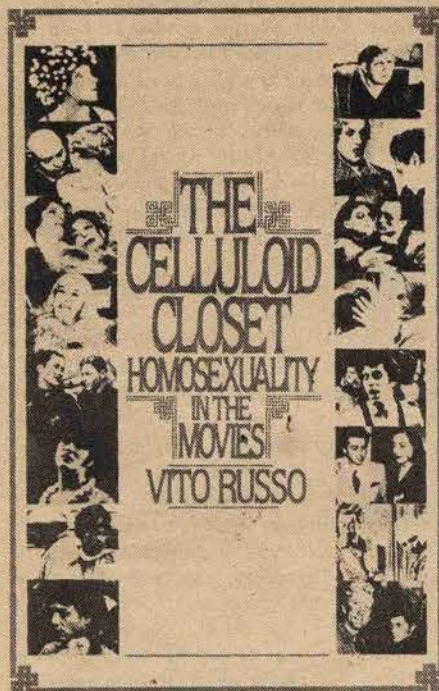


1474
Madison
Avenue
Memphis,
Tenn
278-9021

Shuffleboard
Tournament
Every Sunday Night 8 p.m.
Wednesday
Nights
Levi-Western-Leather
Night
Canned Beer 75¢
"Tsarus" Club Night Sat July 25



Books



Reviewed by Mike Bush

The perfect idea for several full-length nonfiction vehicles has finally been put on wheels, or I should say reels—Vito Russo's *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies* has me reeling. Russo is an intelligent and competent writer who has chosen a subject so rich, so topical and irresistibly entertaining that I expect a stampede to local bookstores once word is out.

The Celluloid Closet is glutted with still photographs lovingly culled from every era of the motion picture. The Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr) from *The Wizard of Oz* graces Chapter One, "Who's a Sissy?" Stills from the silent screen, from the early talkies, and a few surprises from the cutting-room floor are nicely arranged to correspond with Russo's enlightening text. How about a hunky Tony Curtis helping a limp-wristed Laurence Olivier from the tub in a scene cut from *Spartacus* (1960)?

Russo is equally adept at criticizing individual films, editing his obviously extensive interviews with screenwriters, and commenting broadly on the film industry. In Chapter Two, "The Way We Weren't," he details how Gay characters have been systematically cleaned up, glossed over, or totally cut from mainstream movies. As writers Gore Vidal and Lillian Hellman, both of whose works have been "adapted" for the screen, will testify, directors have often gone to great lengths to insure that Gayness will remain "the love that dare not speak its name." Russo tells of the subtle and not so subtle ways we were deleted from original scripts, as in *Midnight Express* and *Cabaret*.



Hollywood's rewritten history demonstrates a shocking indifference to the Gay sensibility, and in many cases an utter disregard for the truth. Billy Hayes, the real life character on whom *Midnight Express* was based, had Gay experiences in the Turkish prison where the movie is set, and never spurned a young Swede's advances as the film indicates.

Russo also examines the dual roles of the Motion Picture Association of America (Hollywood's internal security system), and the state censorship boards in suppressing any mention of overt homosexuality until the 50's. Before 1950, effeminate bachelors and vague innuendo were all that America saw of Gay life. Unfortunately, as Russo points out, when the closet door was opened, Gays emerged—into the shadows. Predictably, Hollywood's treatment of Gays in the last twenty years has not contributed positively to Gay liberation.

We are the murderers (*Cruising*, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*, *Dressed to Kill*) and the murdered. Russo lists thirty-seven films in which major Gay characters have met violent deaths; he notes that 22 of 28 major studio films with Gay characters made between 1962 and 1978 ended up with the murder or suicide of the Gay character. Some statistics about the truth—these statistics intimate a deeply disturbing homophobia.

Very rarely will a book be recommended both for its politics and entertainment. *The Celluloid Closet* gets my "10" on both counts. For while the message is loud and clear, the medium is such a joy that the experience is pure pleasure.

Remember Laurel and Hardy? Ever think twice about their constant sleeping together? How did you relate to Joe Buck (Jon Voight) in *Midnight Cowboy*? Did you pick up that Peter Lorre was one of us in *The Maltese Falcon*? Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of this book, after its photos, is its lists. The Ones You've Missed, for example. My personal list includes *The Strange One* (1957) with Ben Gazzarra, *Victim* (1961) with Dirk Bogarde, *Advise and Consent* (1962), *The Children's Hour* (1938 and 1962), *The Leather Boys* (1964), *Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams* (1973), and *A Very Natural Thing* (1973). You make your own list as you read.

Another list would be the Ones You've Seen But Missed, including *The Maltese Falcon* mentioned above. Add to this list the movies which Russo explains have been tampered with, like *Lawrence of Arabia* (1968), where it is very easy to miss the homoerotic angle between Peter O'Toole and Jose Ferrer.

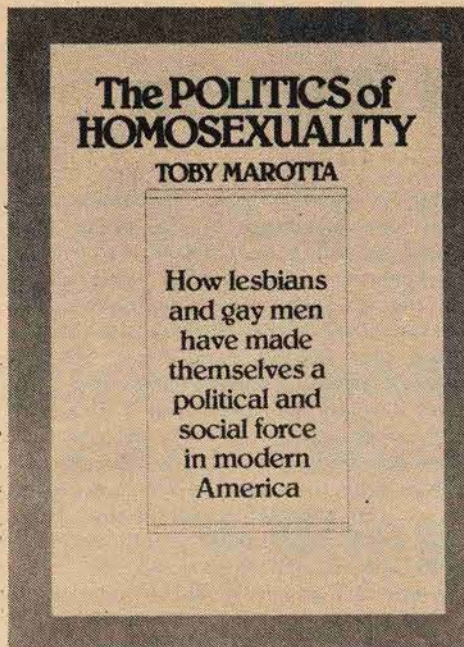
The best list of course is the freight-laden

Ones You Remember. Fans will be delighted with the original poster from Mart Crowley's *Boys in the Band* (1970) on page 124. Russo discusses *Boys* with insight and clarity. And who could forget *Sunday, Bloody Sunday* (1971)? *Tea and Sympathy* (1956)? *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975)? *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1976)? I recall sobbing loudly

at the recent Memphian showing of *Death in Venice* (1971).

The *Celluloid Closet* does what the best history books do—it examines the process to see how we got where we are. It dares to attack the Gay Stereotype, created by Hollywood for a hungry but blissfully ignorant public. It is a valuable and beautiful tool in our struggle.

Not For Activists Only



The Politics of Homosexuality, by Toby Marotta, Houghton Mifflin, 2 Park St., Boston, MA 02107. Hardcover: \$16.95, Paperback: \$9.95.

Reviewed By Bill Stevenson

Of all the books that have been written in the past few years on the history of the Gay and Lesbian political movement in America—and there seems to be a new one every month—*The Politics of Homosexuality* is the most comprehensive. Toby Marotta traces the history of the movement from its post-war beginnings to its current status complete with extensive documentation.

Reading the book from an activist's viewpoint, I was excited at learning new facts

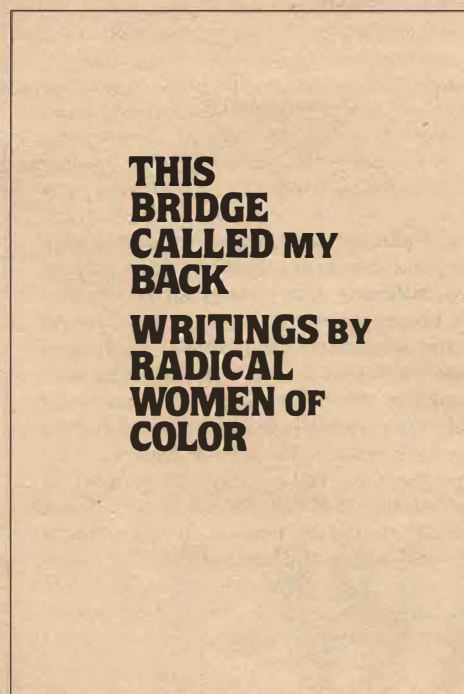
and tracing our roots as well as seeing new slants on familiar history. But I was far more impressed with the book's potential effect on the self-oppressed individual who still dominates this country's Gay population. *Politics* is a far more valuable book to the majority of Gays than to the activist; it can stimulate a new awareness in the average Gay who still thinks that we are just like heterosexuals except for what we do in bed.

Marotta gives us thrilling accounts of the progression of ideas about ourselves during the '50's, '60's and '70's. The development of the idea of Gay pride in our own cultural experiences is inspirational. Too many of us shout "Gay Pride" without knowing why we should really feel proud.

Marotta's "the contemporary explosion of things Gay," the subject of the book's concluding chapters, is a heartening fact in today's world of Jerry Falout and the Lethal Majority. "The Explosion of Things Gay" concludes that the legitimization and cultivation of Gay culture can be traced to "liberationist politics" and the efforts Gay and Lesbian liberationists made to persuade homosexuals to think positively of themselves (Gay is good) and their peers, to join together in political blocs and cultural communities, and to force those around them to accord them recognition, representation and rights. This in turn resulted in the formation of Lesbian and Gay groups of every kind, identifiably Gay and Lesbian lifestyles, subcultures, businesses and neighborhoods.

Dr. Toby Marotta has earned graduate degrees from the Kennedy School of Government, the Graduate School of Education, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University. *The Politics of Homosexuality* is a revision of his Harvard doctoral dissertation. Marotta is currently a Senior Research Associate at Urban and Rural Systems Associates, a San Francisco consulting firm. He is a fulltime researcher on and writer about Gay life.

Rites Of Passage



This Bridge Called My Back, Ed. by Cherrie Morgan and Gloria Anzaldua, Persephone Press, P.O. Box 7222, Watertown, MA 02172, Paperback: \$8.95.

Reviewed by Jenifer Taft

The reason for intolerance of difference escapes me. The goodness of difference and the badness of intolerance of it comes to its own rite of passage in *This Bridge Called My Back, Writings By Radical Women of Color*. Described as a book that "documents particular rites of passage, coming of age and coming to terms with community—race, group, class, gender, self—its expectations, supports and lessons," *Bridge* is, more than anything, a bridge.

Six sections of prose, poetry, personal narrative and analysis by Afro-American, Asian American, Latina, and Native American women build this bridge. They are: "Children Passing in the Streets, The Roots of Our Radicalism;" "Entering the Lives of Others, Theory in the Flesh;" "And When You Leave, Take Your Pictures With You, Racism in the Women's Movement;" "Between the Lines, On Culture, Class and Homophobia;" "Speaking in Tongues, The Third World Woman Writer;" and "El Mundo Zurdo, The Vision."

Bridge is about and for Third World women. It is about the oppression that results from the intolerance of difference.

Barbara Cameron writes in "Gee You Don't Seem Like An Indian From the Reservation," "Native Americans are the foremost group of people who continuously fight against premeditated cultural genocide."

Hattie Gossett writes in "who told you anybody wants to hear from you? you aint nothing but a black woman!" "dont nobody care nothing about black folks these days. we is definitely not in vogue. this season we are not the rage. aint nobody even seriously courting our vote during this presidential election year. and do you know what happens when a black woman opens her mouth to say anything other than do it to me! do it to me! do it to me daddy do! dont you? havent you had enough of that? or are you a masochist? or a fool?"

Bridge is a cultural experience beyond the limits of intolerance. It laughs at the limits. It says the limits are somebody else's. There are no compromises, no explanations, no restraints. It says you have oppressed me and you are the fool.

But most of all this book is about learning. It is about learning to recognize our differences and, *not* to tolerate them, but to praise them.

NOTICE OF MEETING: Urgent Monday, July 27, 7 p.m. There will be a general meeting of all members of Club 10 North Cleveland. This meeting includes all honorary members, all members whether cards are current or not. This is a general policy meeting to discuss certain benefits and plans for the very near future. This does not pertain to the nightclub 10 N. Cleveland which is now open to the public. Drinks and refreshments will be served FREE of charge. Anyone not currently a member of this social club and is interested is invited to attend.



Classifieds

Rates for classified: 20¢ per word, \$3 minimum. Phone numbers & zip codes are free. Deadline for ads is 10 days prior to publication date (4th Friday monthly). Payment must accompany ads. There is a \$2 charge for use of our post office box. Address to *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103. Phone (901) 274-0431 (irregular hours, keep trying).

BRAD: Haven't heard from you. Call Pat at Social Friends, 274-9359.

SOCIAL FRIENDS, for counseling in approaching Gay life. Call 274-9359.

LESBIAN & GAY RESOURCE MATERIALS needed. In an effort to collect extremely valuable, but often discarded Gay and Lesbian related source materials found in non-Gay periodical publications (such as newspapers), please send full bibliographical information and copy of periodical materials, including place, name, date and page(s) of publication. Contributor should attach his/her name with article(s). A bibliography to be compiled quarterly will provide documentary evidence of the dominant heterosexual attitudes toward Gays. Mail to Edward Paoletta, c/o *Gay Books Bulletin*, P.O. Box 480, Lenox Hill Sta., NY, NY 10021.

DISTURBED PEACE--Dignity, Inc. has published collected writings of Brian McNaught. Paperback, 136 pages, \$4.95 plus \$1 postage. Dignity, Inc., 1500 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Room 11, Washington, DC 20005.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Midtown 2-bedroom apartment. Call John at 274-6344.

MARIJUANA COOKBOOK! Lots of delicious dishes with a highclass taste that melts your mind. Send \$7.50 to Rowdy Publishers, Box 27266 G, Memphis, TN 38127. Order now!

GAY MAN SEEKS discreet, nondrinker, nonsmoker, intellectual man, approximately 35, Memphis resident for lasting relationship. I am 35, 140 lbs., 5'6", brown eyes. Please send description of self and interest and telephone number to David, c/o *GAZE*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

HUNDREDS OF prison inmates need your friendship. 76-page directory listing descriptions and full mailing addresses available for a donation of \$2 from Ken's Friends, Box 3023, Port Charlotte, FL 33952.

GAY BOOK CATALOG lists 1,115 titles. Available from Paths Untrodden, Box 459, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 for \$2.

LESBIANS INTERESTED in participating in a research project concerning Lesbian relationships, lifestyles, attitudes, beliefs, etc. please contact Carol Thornton at 454-2793 or 767-6834.

GAYS: Integrate work and friendship with progressive social values in four rural communities including Twin Oaks and East Wind. Gentle cultures based on cooperation, equality, and environmental concern. For information send \$2 (free if needed) to: Federation of Egalitarian Communities, P.O. Box GZ 61, Tecumseh, MO 65760.

I.D. PROTEST...

Continued from page 1

"That's all we ask," Calhoun said. "We want to be treated equally and fairly. If you ask me for three I.D.'s, ask the next guy too."

A meeting between representatives of the Memphis Committee and Don Rossignoll on July 10 resulted in Rossignoll's promise that the bars on Marshall Avenue would not practice discrimination against Blacks. Rossignoll said that his bars have never practiced discrimination and that he has never received a complaint of such.

Melvin Lockett of the Committee said that the group asked Rossignoll to sign a paper saying that he would not practice discrimination. "Don refused to sign anything that he 'had not written himself,'" Lockett said. "It was only about a one or two line document saying that he would ask for the same number of I.D.'s from everybody."

Lockett said that Rossignoll had instituted a new policy requiring that all persons entering his bars must present a driver's license and that no other I.D. would be required.

Members of the Memphis Committee emphasized that the Barracks was singled out "because it is currently the most popular

Gay bar in the city and because we simply grew tired of not acting on obvious racial discrimination. Most Gay bars in Memphis and other cities practice similar discrimination by asking for an 'inappropriate' number of I.D.'s from Blacks and frequently none from whites."

A bartender, who prefers to remain anonymous, told *Gaze* that it is "common knowledge that most Gay bars operate on the quota system." The bartender, who is not employed by the Barracks, said, "Most Gay bars, particularly the big discos, will allow a certain number or 'quota' of Blacks and women into the bar before clamping the vice by asking for a ton of I.D.'s, usually four, with pictures and so forth. If the person can actually produce the required I.D.'s, and few can, they are generally told that some of the I.D.'s are not acceptable for some reason. I'm not saying any bar in particular does it; I'm just saying that the practice is pretty common."

The Memphis Committee has asked anyone who notes a deviation in the new policy of the Marshall Avenue bars (requiring no more than a driver's license that is current and accurate) to report such incidents to them by calling 396-6146. The Committee will deal with barowners on behalf of complaints.

In Concert:



Kelly Johnson

Charlie McMullen

Pam Pinkall

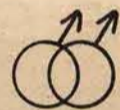
An Evening of Alternative Moods And Music

Saturday, August 22, 9 p.m.

\$2

at the
Pendulum

92 N. Avalon



**THE FRUIT
BAR
SALOON**

76 N. Cleveland
725-9842

"Very Festive Afternoons!"



Opens 4 p.m. Daily
Men & Women Welcome

Sandy

Karen

MY PLACE

238 N. Cleveland

725-9834

Under New Ownership!

Vergie

Mickey

Merrel

10 North Cleveland

Madison Avenue at Cleveland
726-9813

Complete 3 Bar Complex

Cocktails--Food--Dancing

Upstairs Lounge & Game Room

Open 3 p.m. Daily

Daily **HAPPY HOUR** Offering Cocktails 2 for 1

Full Menu Specializing in Pizzas and Deli Sandwiches

Coors Draught 50¢

Main Bar & Patio

Open 8 p.m. Daily

SPECIAL NIGHTS

Tuesdays: 8-Midnight FREE COLD COORS DRAUGHT

Regular Beer and Highballs 75¢

Any Pizza Half Price

Cover Only \$3.50

Fridays & Saturdays: Live Entertainment 9-11:30 p.m.

EVERYNIGHT of the Week--Dancing to the **BEST** Sound & Lights in the City!

OPEN LETTER TO THE GAY COMMUNITY:

As in every major city in the U.S., when a new club opens serving the Gay community a major movement of business takes place which naturally puts a strain on all clubs serving that community. Due to lack of business and major changes which needed to be made in both personnel and property here at 10 N. Cleveland, we had to close our doors. It was a necessity.

Several thousand dollars worth of damage had been done to the sound system, the main bar had to be rebuilt

because it was over 4 inches too high and uncomfortable, the patio had to be completed, and above all this, the club needed to serve food and mixed drinks. The projects and problems of this club were numerous and expensive. Mixed drinks alone carry a price tag of over \$15,000. A cash flow had to be maintained to accomplish these projects, so we opened our doors to the public.

When a club opens its doors offering live entertainment, all forms of news media are attracted and, unfortunately, on June 12 an

article was published in the *Commercial Appeal* which was very distorted and damaging. We are quite sure the main body of the Gay community read this article, for it was posted and reposted in the downtown bars. We approached the management of these clubs with the truth and asked that this article be removed and not capitalized upon. We were asked not to come back to these clubs, in other words, "barred."

We only desire to reach the community with the truth. This IS a Gay Bar.